

## OBITUARIES

# Rik Musty —an ICRS prime mover

By John McPartland and Fred Gardner

The longtime executive director of the International Cannabinoid Research Society, Rik Musty, died July 26, at home in Wacouta, Minnesota, at the age of 72.

Rik was born in Minnesota, earned a BA from Carleton College in 1964, and a PhD in Psychology from McGill in 1968. He joined the University of Vermont faculty that year, and chaired the Department of Psychology from 1975 to 1987. He mentored 31 Masters and Doctoral students, and served on the committees of 20 additional theses and dissertations.

His cannabinoid research began in 1973, as a Visiting Professor in Sao Paulo Brazil, working with Karniol and Carlini. That fruitful collaboration continued through 2006, bolstered by sabbatical leaves to Brazil in 1981 and 2004. PubMed lists 25 publications. Musty also wrote a dozen book chapters —including two published in 1984 on the anti-anxiety effects of cannabidiol, A paper he coauthored (*Eur Neurol.* 38:44-8) encouraged the development of a cannabis-based medicine for the treatment of multiple sclerosis and has been cited more than 200 times.

Musty R (1984) Possible anxiolytic effects of cannabidiol. In: Agurell S, Dewey WL, Willette RE (eds.), *The Cannabinoids: Chemical, Pharmacological and Therapeutic Aspects*. New York: Academic Press, pp. 795–813.  
Musty R, Conti LH, Mechoulam R (1984) Anxiolytic properties of cannabidiol. In: Harvey DJ (ed.), *Marihuana 84: Proceedings of the Oxford Symposium on Cannabis*. Oxford: IRL Press, pp. 713–719.

In 1987, Rik, Greg Chesher, and Paul Consroe chaired the Melbourne Symposium on Cannabinoids (following an IUPHAR meeting) and edited a report published by the Australian government.

In 1990 Rik, Consroe, and Alex Makriyannis organized a symposium on Crete

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at which Rik proposed that cannabinoid researchers form a society to hold annual meetings. He had brought by-laws of a Vermont non-profit to expedite the launch of an International Cannabinoid Research Society. The 45 charter members include many still active in the society: Greg Chesher, Dale Deutsch, Mahmoud ElSohly, Javier Fernandez-Ruiz, Eliot Gardner, Allyn Howlett, Toby Jarbe, Thomas Lundqvist, Alex Makriyannis, Raphael Mechoulam, Roger Pertwee, Patti Reggio, and Herb Seltzman.

Consroe says that the creation of the ICRS loosened the vice-like grip of the US National Institute on Drug Abuse on conference content. NIDA is still the dominant funder of cannabinoid research and strongly influences the ICRS agenda —but not to the extent it once did, says Consroe.

The first ICRS symposium was held in Keystone, Colorado, in June, 1992, as a satellite meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence.

Rik served as the first ICRS treasurer, then was executive director through 2010. Assisted by Diane Mahadeen Musty, he ran

exceptionally collegial, increasingly well-attended meetings in memorable locations. The Society acknowledged his contribution through an ICRS Career Achievement Award presented at the Lund, Sweden meeting in 2010.

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Rik was a quiet-spoken man with wide interests. Few people know his political career. Rik teamed with Bernie Sanders in 1982, which propelled both of them into office—Rik as Burlington City Councilman for Ward 1, and Bernie as Mayor. Rik served for four years on the city council; Bernie went on to run for higher office. In 1986 the two men taught a class at the University of Vermont on “The ‘60s.” (Video of their first 2-hour-long class has been made available by the archivists at Burlington's Channel 17 / Town Meeting TV.)

Rik's political skills were on display at the 1998 ICRS meeting in La Grand Motte, France. At the end of the NIDA presentations, Ed Rosenthal of High Times bluntly asked “Do any of you think your work is influenced by [NIDA Director] Alan Leshner's bias?” There was a pause as the panelists looked at each other to see who would respond. After a few beats Rik said, “Science is always influenced by the culture in which it's conducted.”

Earlier this year Rik forwarded (to FG) a warning posted on the US Food and Drug Administration website about prod-

ucts falsely labeled as to their cannabidiol content. He said he hoped that, “as the first U.S. researcher to investigate CBD,” his request to the FDA for more information would be honored. Martin Lee of Project CBD recommended a lawyer to help Rik prod FDA, and was planning to publish whatever he could find out about FDA's monitoring and testing of CBD products.

Rik's Minnesota sense of humor was like Garrison Keillor's. My (J. McP.) first appointment to meet Rik at his office in October 1993 was delayed by a freak Autumn snowstorm. My second visit in May 1994 also occurred in the midst of an unseasonable snowstorm that shut down Burlington. Rik smiled and asked me to limit my visits to normal winter months. He will be missed.



## Mike Gray, Writer/Organizer

Mike Gray died of heart failure, at home in Los Angeles, in May 2013.

His book *Drug Crazy: How We Got Into This Mess and How We Can Get Out* —the product of six years' research and writing— was published by Random House in 1998 and had an impact on the drug war debate.

Gray's follow-up, *Busted: Stone Cowboys, Narco-Lords, and Washington's War on Drugs* was published by Nation Books in 2002. In 2003 Common Courage Press released his book *The Death Game: Capital Punishment and the Luck of the Draw*.

Like several other Hollywood realists, Mike Gray came from a documentary film background. His Chicago-Based Film Group chronicled the political violence of the 1960's, including the award-winning feature documentaries, *American Revolution II* and *The Murder of Fred Hampton*.

Gray grew up in the small farm town of Darlington, Indiana, and after graduating from Purdue University with an engineer-

ing degree in 1958, he worked in New York as an editor for *Aviation Age*.

In 1965 he joined with Jim Dennett to form The Film Group, a Chicago based production company. Their work in TV commercials provided the foundation for a series of theatrical and television documentaries. The two men worked together on more than fifty film and television projects over the last two decades.

After moving to Hollywood in 1973, Gray began writing the screenplay that was to become the eerily prophetic *China Syndrome*. His years of research were confirmed less than two weeks after the movie's release by the accident at Three Mile Island.

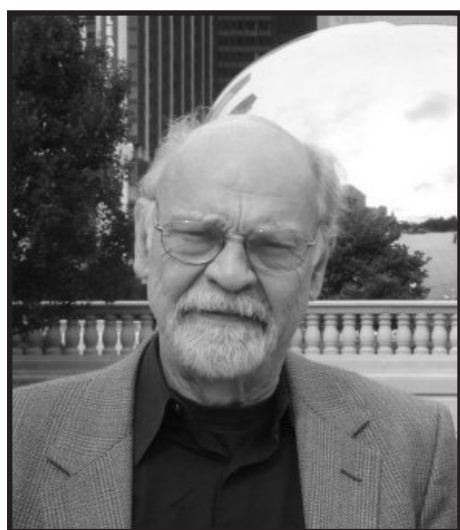
Gray went to Harrisburg to cover the Three Mile Island story for Rolling Stone magazine and collaborated on *The Warning* (W.W. Norton) a definitive account of the accident based on 200 hours of interviews and 50,000 pages of transcripts from five government inquiries.

In 1981 Gray wrote and directed the theatrical feature, *Wavelength*, a science fiction thriller starring Bobby Carradine and Keenan Wynn (New World).

Gray's second book, *Angle of Attack: Harrison Storms and the Race to the Moon*, (W.W. Norton) was purchased by Tom Hanks for the TV series, *From the Earth to the Moon*.

With James Hirsch, he completed two screenplays based on the books, *Harrison Storms and the Race to the Moon*, and *Accident at Three Mile Island*.

Mike Gray lived in L.A. with his wife, Carol, a reporter for public radio. Their son, Lucas, is an animator for The Simpsons.



## John Vasconcellos California Legislator

John Vasconcellos left us in May 2014 at age 82. The cause was kidney failure. A Democrat, Vasco spent 30 years in the California State Assembly and another eight in the State Senate representing Santa Clara.

In 1994 he introduced a bill to allow marijuana use by patients with a finite list of conditions (AIDS, cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma). It passed in '94 and again in '95, but was vetoed each time by Governor Pete Wilson. (“Thankfully,” says Dale Gieringer. Activists then drafted the initiative that became Proposition 215, allowing use for any symptoms alleviated by marijuana.)

In 1996, when Vasco called on UCSF dermatologist Marcus Conant to seek support for Prop 215, Conant noticed a growth on the politician's nose that turned out to be melanoma. “Prop 215 saved my life,” Vasco would say, recounting the episode.

Vasco chaired a task force that drafted legislation to “clarify and implement” the law created by Prop 215. (The photo above, of Vasco and Valerie Corral, was taken at the first meeting in 1998.) After three years of meetings the task force produced SB-420, which established California's Medical Marijuana Program.

## Joe McNamara, Progressive Cop

Joseph McNamara passed away in September 2014 at the age of 79. His 35-year law enforcement career began in 1956 as a beat cop for the New York City Police Department and included stints as police chief of Kansas City, Missouri, and San Jose, California.

Along the way he earned a PhD from Harvard in public administration and wrote a textbook on police methodology. He was a leading advocate of community policing by a racially integrated force.

McNamara spoke out publicly against the drug war long before the issue had come to the political forefront. He was a speaker and advisory board member for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), a group of law enforcement officials opposed to the war on drugs.

“When you're telling cops that they're soldiers in a Drug War, you're destroying the whole concept of the citizen peace officer, a peace officer whose fundamental duty is to protect life and be a community servant,” said McNamara in 1995.

—Darby Beck

